CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for operating an electronic mail server system having mailboxes associated with message client devices, the method comprising:

receiving input to change a mailbox, said input comprising a request to change an organizational structure of said mailbox;

making changes to said mailbox in response to said input; and

sending a message to a message client device associated with said mailbox, said message comprising information to allow said message client device to synchronize a cached version of said mailbox stored locally in said message client device with said mailbox.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said input further comprises a new mail message.

3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising checking whether said message client device is subscribed to receive said message; and sending said message only if said message client device is so subscribed.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein said information comprises information to update mail folders in said cached version of said mailbox.

5.   The method of claim 2, wherein said information comprises parameters required by a message access protocol to allow said message client device to retrieve said new mail message from said mailbox.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein said message access protocol comprises the Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP).

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein said message is sent using a Short Message Service (SMS).

8.   The method of claim 4, wherein said information to update said mail folders comprises a request selected from a group comprising a request to add, remove, and rename folders in said cached version of said mailbox.

9.   A method for operating a message client device, said method comprising:

        receiving a client message;

        checking whether said client message is a mail notification message; and

        if said client message is a mail notification message, then decoding said message to obtain message access protocol parameters; connecting to a mail server and synchronizing a cached mailbox stored locally in said message client device with an associated mailbox stored in said mail server using said message access protocol parameters, wherein said synchronizing comprises retrieving changes to an organizational structure of said associated mailbox and updating

said cached mailbox in response; and notifying a user of said message client device of new mail messages received during said synchronization.

10.   The method of claim 9, wherein said synchronizing further comprises retrieving new mail from said associated mailbox; and storing said new mail in said cached mailbox.

11.   The method of claim 9, wherein said message access protocol is the Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP).

12.   The method of claim 9, wherein said message is a message sent via a Short Message Service (SMS).

13.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which when executed by a processing system causes said system to perform a method comprising:

receiving input to change a mailbox, said input comprising a request to change an organizational structure of said mailbox;

making changes to said mailbox in response to said input; and

sending a message to a message client device associated with said mailbox, said message comprising information to allow said message client device to synchronize a cached version of said mailbox stored locally in said message client device with said mailbox.

14.   The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said input further comprises a new mail message.

15.   The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said method further comprises checking if said message client device is subscribed to receive said message; and sending said message only if said message client device is so subscribed.

16.   The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said information comprises information to update mail folders in said cached version of said mailbox.

17.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein said information comprises parameters required by a message access protocol to allow said message client device to retrieve said new mail message from said mailbox.

18.   The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein said message access protocol comprises the Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP).

19.   The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said message is sent using a Short Message Service (SMS).

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein said information to update said mail folders comprises a request selected from a group comprising a request to add, remove, and rename folders in said cached version of said mailbox.

21. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which when executed by a processing system cause said system to perform a method comprising:

receiving a client message;

checking if said client message is a mail notification message; and

if said client message is a mail notification message then decoding said message to obtain message access protocol parameters; connecting to a mail server and synchronizing a cached mailbox stored locally in said message client device with an associated mailbox stored in said mail server using said message access protocol parameters, wherein said synchronizing comprises retrieving changes to an organizational structure of said associated mailbox, and updating said cached mailbox in response; and notifying a user of said message client device of new mail messages received during said synchronization.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said synchronizing further comprises retrieving new mail from said associated mailbox; and storing said new mail in said cached mailbox.

23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said message access protocol is the Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP).

24.   The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said message is a message sent via a Short Message Service (SMS).

25.   An electronic mail server system having mailboxes associated with message client devices, said system comprising:

a receiving mechanism to receive input to change a mailbox, said input comprising a request to change an organizational structure of said mailbox; and

a transmitting mechanism to transmit a message to a message client device associated with said mailbox, said message comprising information to allow said message client device to synchronize a cached version of said mailbox stored locally in said message client device with said mailbox.

26.   The server system of claim 25, wherein said input further comprises a new mail message.

27.   The server system of claim 25, further comprising a checking mechanism to check if said message client device is subscribed to receive said message, said transmitting mechanism then operating to transmit said message only if said message client device is so subscribed.

28.   The server system of claim 25, wherein said information comprises information to update mail folders in said cached version of said mailbox.

29.   The server system of claim 26, wherein said information comprises parameters required by a message access protocol to allow said message client device to retrieve said new mail message from said mailbox.

30.   The server system of claim 29, wherein said message access protocol comprises the Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP).

31.   The server system of claim 25, wherein said message is sent using a Short Message Service (SMS).

32.   The server system of claim 28, wherein said information to update said mail folders comprises a request selected from a group comprising a request to add, remove, and rename folders in said cached version of said mailbox.

33.   A message client device comprising:

a receiving mechanism to receive a client message;

a checking mechanism to check if said client message is a mail notification message;

a decoding mechanism to decode said client message if it is a mail notification message thereby to obtain message access protocol parameters;

a connection mechanism to connect to a mail server to synchronize a cached mailbox stored locally in said message client device with an associated mailbox stored in said mail server using said message access protocol parameters, wherein said synchronizing comprises retrieving changes to an organizational structure of said associated mailbox and updating said cached mailbox in response; and

a notification mechanism to notify a user of said message client device of new mail messages received during said synchronization.

34.   The client device of claim 30, wherein said synchronizing further comprises retrieving new mail from said associated mailbox; and storing said new mail in said cached mailbox.

35.   The client device of claim 33, wherein said message access protocol is the Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP).

36.   The client device of claim 35, wherein said message is a message sent via a Short Message Service (SMS).

37.   An electronic mail server system having mailboxes associated with message client devices, said system comprising:

means for receiving input to change a mailbox, said input comprising a

request to change an organizational structure of said mailbox;

means for making changes to said mailbox in response to said input; and

means for sending a message to a message client device associated with

said mailbox, said message comprising information to allow said message client

device to synchronize a cached version of said mailbox stored locally in said

message client device with said mailbox.

38.   The server system of claim 37, wherein said input further comprises a new

mail message.

39.   The server system of claim 37, further comprising means for checking if

said message client device is subscribed to receive said message; and sending

said message only if said message client device is so subscribed.

40.   A message client device comprising:

means for receiving a client message;

means for checking if said client message is a mail notification message;

and

means for decoding said client message if it is a mail notification message

thereby to obtain message access protocol parameters;

means for connecting to a mail server and synchronizing a cached

mailbox stored locally in said message client device with an associated mailbox

stored in said mail server using said message access protocol parameters, wherein said synchronizing comprises retrieving changes to an organizational structure of said associated mailbox and updating said cached mailbox in response; and

means for notifying a user of said message client device of new mail messages received during said synchronizing.

41. The client message device of claim 40, wherein said synchronizing further comprises retrieving new mail from said associated mailbox; and storing said new mail in said cached mailbox.

42. The client message device of claim 40, wherein said message access protocol is an Internet Message Access Protocol (IMPAP).